

**South Dakota Risk Pool Governing Board Meeting
Governors Small Conference Room
Tuesday, February 12, 2008**

The meeting of the South Dakota Risk Pool Governing Board met on Tuesday, February 12th at 4:00 pm at the Capitol in Pierre, South Dakota.

Those in attendance included Chairperson Kathi Mueller, Vice Chair Tom Martinec, Randy Moses, Janet Griffin, Dave Hewett, and Dennis Studer. Others in attendance were Sandy Zinter, Jill Kruger, and Melissa Kusser.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kathi Mueller. Ms. Mueller explained the purpose of the non-scheduled Board Meeting was to explore possible issues for the Federal Funding Opportunity and to gather the information necessary to share with the Advisory Board for a joint meeting of the Governing Board and the Advisory Board to be held February 13, 2008.

Mueller asked for a motion to approve the December 11, 2007 meeting minutes. Moses made a motion and a second was made by Martinec. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was then made by Moses to approve the January 29, 2008 meeting minutes and a second was made by Studer. Motion passed.

Moses explained that on February 7, 2008 the administration received notification of the availability of new federal funding for risk pools. As before, the federal funds are divided into two different pools of funds. One portion of the grant is operational and the other must be used for expansion, additional benefits or premium reduction. In order for South Dakota to take advantage of the expansion funds, legislation must be enacted to widen eligibility requirements for the risk pool. The uninsurable is a category of persons for which a solution has been sought for a number of years, including this past year by the Zaniya Taskforce.

There were numerous questions from Board members concerning the application of the proposed legislation and the affect it might have on the Risk Pool. Janet Griffin raised the issue whether there were other populations that might benefit from an expansion. Moses briefly reviewed the SB 200 group, where 57 people were enrolled from two separate offerings. Mueller explained, from the groups identified through the Zaniya Project, the uninsurable population was the one that best fit with the risk pool.

The Governing Board is aware that the entire uninsurable population can not be covered and nor do they intend to through this proposal. Proposals to limit the cap included: limit to 3% of the 5280 uninsurable individuals identified through the Zaniya project or setting a specific numeric cap. Dave Hewett voiced a concern about the legal liability with opening the pool to a group where we did not have the funds to support, limiting enrollment even among people with like circumstances. Griffin also indicated there would be administrative issues as it would a bigger group than the SB 200 group and could not be as readily identified. Tom Martinec commented that actuarial analysis similar to the SB 200 expansion analysis would need to be completed for the new federal funds.

Mueller indicated SB114 if passed by the Legislature may provide another option for individuals who now only have the SD Risk Pool for a health insurance option. This may decrease enrollment trends from what they currently are today.

Members discussed whether or not the South Dakota Risk Pool Board should take any position on the proposal. The Division of Insurance will look at historical data to determine what has been done in the past.

A Motion to adjourn was made by Hewett at approximately 5:15 pm. and second was given by Studer. The meeting was adjourned.